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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: RONGHUA WEI ET AL.
Filed: MARCH 26, 2004
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING A NITRIDE LAYER ON A BIOMEDICAL DEVICE
Serial No.: 10/811,485
Group Art Unit: 1775
Examiner: DANIEL MILLER
Atty Dkt: SWRI:003 (3020)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.8, I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on the date below:

8/21/06 Date
[Signature] Name

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner For Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Applicant submits this paper in response to the office action dated June 20, 2006. In the office action, the examiner entered a restriction requirement as follows:

Group I: claims 1-20, drawn to a method of forming a nitride layer, classified in class 427, subclass 469.

Group II: claims 21-23, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 118, subclass 634.

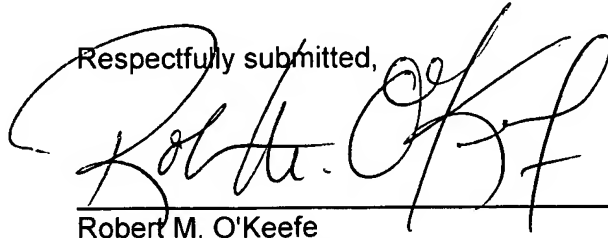
Group III: claims 24-26, drawn to an article, classified in class 428, subclass 408.

In response, Applicant elects to prosecute Group 1, claims 1-20, without traverse.

Should any fees under 37 CFR 1.16-1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from O'Keefe, Egan &

Peterman Deposit Account No. 10-1205/SWRI:003. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. O'Keefe", written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. O'Keefe
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